

these hermetic chambers. When the pressure in a first hermetic chamber is reduced, it is recommended that an exhaust system for exhausting the contents of the first hermetic chamber through a first opening be provided. As an exhaust system, various kinds of vacuum pumps (a rotary pump, an oil diffusion pump, a mechanical booster pump, a turbo-molecular pump, a getter-ion pump, a liquid sealing pump, and the like), a blower, a fan, and the like can be given. By such an exhaust system, the pressure in the first hermetic chamber can be regulated.

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Page 85, lines 7-9, please ~~amend~~ the paragraph as follows:

B2 An exhaust system 110 is connected to the first hermetic chamber 102. The structure of this exhaust system is similar to that of the exhaust system 106 of the purge chamber 101.

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Page 87, lines 3-18, please ~~amend~~ the paragraph as follows:

B3 An exhaust gas treatment system 111 for treating a gaseous emission containing gas produced by decomposition of the component resins of the object to be treated 150 is placed between the first hermetic chamber 102 and the exhaust system 110. The first hermetic chamber 102 and the exhaust gas treatment system 111 are partitioned off by an openable and closeable hermetic door 111b as depicted in Figure 2. When this hermetic door 111b is opened, a retort 111c is inserted from the exhaust gas treatment system 111 side. On this occasion, the hermetic door 111b is shielded from the first hermetic chamber 102, and the first hermetic chamber 102 and the exhaust treatment system 111 hermetically communicate with each other by the retort 111c. The adoption of this structure makes it possible to prevent the gaseous emission from adhering to the hermetic door 111b in the treatment apparatus of the present invention. Moreover, a seal portion of the hermetic door 111b is shielded from

B3 heat from the first hermetic chamber 102, whereby the seal portion of the hermetic door is protected, leading to improvement in hermetic sealing capability.

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Page 88, lines 5-8, please amend the paragraph as follows:

B4 A multi-exhaust gas chamber not illustrated may be provided at stages subsequent to the exhaust systems 106, 110, 114, and 116 connecting to the respective chambers in order not to leak noxious gases emitted from the object to be treated 150 to the outside of the apparatus.

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Page 89, lines 4-7, please amend the paragraph as follows:

B5 This second hermetic chamber 103 includes the same electric heater 113 as the first hermetic chamber as a heating means. The heating member is not limited to the electric heater 109, and can be selected or provided in combination as required.

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Page 89, lines 16-18, please amend the paragraph as follows:

B6 An exhaust system 114 is connected to the second hermetic chamber 103. The structure of this exhaust system is similar to that of the exhaust system 106 of the purge chamber 101.

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Page 91, line 16 through page 92, line 7, please amend the paragraph as follows:

B7 A recovery chamber 115 for recovering a metal in the state of a gas vaporized from the object to be treated 150 is placed between the second hermetic chamber 103 and the exhaust system 114. This recovery chamber condenses the metal vaporized in this chamber by cooling them to a temperature not more than a melting point and recovers it. The second

B7  
hermetic chamber 103 and the recovery chamber 115 are partitioned off by an openable and closeable hermetic door 115b as depicted in Figure 2. When the hermetic door 115b is opened 115b, a retort (or a tube) 115c is inserted from the recovery chamber 115 side. On this occasion, the hermetic door 115b is shielded from the second hermetic chamber 103 and the recovery chamber 115, and the second hermetic chamber 103 and the recovery chamber 115 hermetically communicate with each other by the retort 115c. The adoption of the aforesaid structure makes it possible to prevent vaporized substances from the object to be treated from condensing and adhering to the hermetic door 115b in the treatment apparatus of the present invention. Moreover, a seal portion of the hermetic door 115b is shielded from heat from the second hermetic chamber 103, whereby the seal portion of the hermetic door 115b is protected, leading to improvement in hermetic sealing capability.

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Page 95, line 13 through page 96, line 4, please ~~amend~~ the paragraph as follows:

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B8  
FIG. 2 is a diagram schematically showing the treatment apparatus of the present invention illustrated in FIG. 1. Signals from a pressure sensor 202a in the purge chamber 101, a temperature sensor 201b, a pressure sensor 202b, and an oxygen concentration sensor 203 in the first hermetic chamber 102, a temperature sensor 201c and a pressure sensor 202c in the second hermetic chamber 103, and a pressure sensor 202d in the cooling chamber 104, all of which are not illustrated in FIG. 1, are transmitted to a control panel 200 composing a control means. The control means may be structured by incorporating a program into an electronic computer. It is suitable that the control means controls the heating means, the pressure regulating means, and the oxygen concentration regulating means according to the state of each of the chambers in the apparatus. Moreover, the opening and closing of the partitions 105 and the transfer of the object to be treated 150 by the pusher 130 and the

B8 drawer 131 may be performed by this control means. The numeral 210 denotes a monitor for showing the state of the temperature, pressure, oxygen concentration, and the like in each chamber, the opening and closing state of the partitions 105, and the like to the operator. The numeral 211 denotes a multi-exhaust gas treatment device.

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Page 97, lines 14-17, please amend the paragraph as follows:

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B9 The purge chamber 301, the cooling chamber 303, partitions 305, exhaust system 306, trap 307, carrier gas introduction valve 308, exhaust system 316, trap 318, the carrier gas introduction system, a pusher 330, and a drawer 331 are similar to those in the treatment apparatus 100 illustrated in FIG. 1. A control means also can be provided in the same manner.

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Page 101, lines 11-22, please amend the paragraph as follows:

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B18 The purge chamber 501 is connected to a trap 506 and an exhaust system 507. The first hermetic chamber 502 is connected to an exhaust gas treatment system 508 and an exhaust system 509 via a hermetic door 508b. The second hermetic chamber 503 is connected to a recovery chamber 510 and an exhaust system 511 via a hermetic door 510b. The third hermetic chamber 504 is connected to a recovery chamber 512 and an exhaust system 513 via a hermetic door 512b. The cooling chamber 505 is connected to a trap 514 and an exhaust system 515. The first hermetic chamber 502, the second hermetic chamber 503, and the third hermetic chamber 504 include temperature regulating means not illustrated respectively. The numeral 516 denotes a carrier gas introduction system, and the numeral 517 denotes a carrier gas reservoir. The exhaust gas treatment system 508 includes a retort

B10 508c, the recover chamber 510 includes a retort 510c, and the recover chamber 512 includes a retort 512c.

Page 102, lines 8-16, please ~~amend~~ the paragraph as follows:

B11 This treatment apparatus 600 is an apparatus capable of treating an object to be treated having resins and metals as its components. In this treatment apparatus 600, a plurality of recovery systems are connected to one hermetic container 601, and treatment is performed by switching the recovery systems according to the temperature, pressure, and oxygen concentration in the hermetic container 601. Also in this example, the hermetic container 601 and exhaust gas treatment systems 602 are partitioned off by hermetic doors 602b in the same manner as above. Moreover, the hermetic container 601 and the recovery chamber 605 are partitioned by hermetic doors 605b. The exhaust gas treatment systems 602 each include a retort 602c, and the recovery chambers 605 each include a retort 605c.

Page 111, lines 6-15, please ~~delete~~ this paragraph in its entirety.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please ~~cancel~~ Claims 21-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please ~~amend~~ Claims 1, 4, 8, 10-16, 18, and 33 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A treatment apparatus, comprising:

B12 a first hermetic chamber having a first opening;

a tube capable of inserting into the first opening, and the tube having a second opening on a side facing the first hermetic chamber; and